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ABSTRACT

Of the 345 students who did their student teaching at the University of Alaska from 1972 to 1977, 60 percent accepted full-time teaching positions while 24 percent did not enter the teaching ranks. No information could be collected for the remaining 16 percent. Of the former students 77 percent have taken up residence in Alaska. (DS)

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VOCATIONS OF FORMER STUDENT TEACHERS

University of Alaska, Fairbanks
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This is the most recent installment of a series of reports prepared by the author about student teachers. A companion to this report is "Student Teachers 1972-77" which includes information about the number of student teachers who enrolled at the Fairbanks campus, the types of degrees they earned, and so on.

This report will address what these students did after student teaching. How many remained in Alaska? How many accepted full-time teaching positions? In which school districts are these individuals employed? How many have not accepted teaching positions, and what are their occupations?

In this study, teaching is defined as having accepted a full-time teaching position at some time after leaving the University. The school district in which a teacher has been employed may not be, however, the current (1978-79) employer. Individuals who are employed by educational institutions but whose job responsibilities do not include full-time instruction (for example, school secretaries) are included as working in the business sector rather than teaching.

Information about where students accepted employment has been gathered from several sources. Special thanks are extended to the University Alumni Office, the Planning and Placement Office, and the Registrar's Office. School of Education faculty members and public school teachers and administrators also assisted. Printed sources included several editions of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Directory and the 1976-77 State Department of Education Directory. Personal contact with the individuals themselves was, of course, very helpful.

From the above mentioned sources the whereabouts of approximately 200 former student teachers was determined. One hundred forty-five former student teachers remained in an unknown category. During the summer of 1978, a one-page questionnaire with a stamped, self-addressed return envelope was mailed to each individual in the unknown category. Ninety individuals have returned the completed questionnaire.

The following summary, arranged by semester, shows the number of student teachers enrolled, the number who accepted full-time teaching positions after leaving the University, the number who have not taught full-time, and the number of individuals whose occupation still remains unknown.

Table A

Number of Teachers after Student Teaching

Student Teaching Semester	Accepted Full-time Teaching Positions	Did Not Teach	Unknown	Total
Spring 1972	38	8	6	52
Fall 1972	18	4	5	27
Spring 1973	24	6	9	39
Fall 1973	20	4	2	26
Spring 1974	29	10	7	46
Fall 1974	9	4	2	15
Spring 1975	20	6	2	28
Fall 1975	7	2	2	11
Spring 1976	20	13	5	38
Fall 1976	4	2	7	13
Spring 1977	15	13	4	32
Fall 1977	4	10	4	18
TOTALS	208	82	55	345

The total population of student teachers, 1972-77, was 345. (One hundred seventy-three students taught in secondary schools and 172 in elementary schools.) Two hundred eight (60%) of these students have accepted full-time teaching positions. Eighty-two (24%) have pursued non-teaching occupations, and 55 (16%) remain in the "unknown" category.

Accepted Teaching Positions:

One hundred ninety former student teachers accepted teaching positions in Alaska. Eighteen taught outside of the state. Two of these taught in Canada, one in Japan, two in California, and two in Colorado. The remaining eleven students taught in Arizona, Florida, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, and Washington.

The largest employer within Alaska was the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District with 103 teachers. Table B shows a list of districts employing two or more of the students in this study.

Table B

Number of Students Employed by District

School Districts	No. of Students Hired
Fairbanks North Star Borough	103
Anchorage Borough Schools	9
University of Alaska (including community colleges)	8
Valdez City Schools	6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough Schools	6
Regional Education Attendance Area (REAA) Northwest Arctic Schools	6
North Slope Borough Schools	6
Greater Juneau Borough Schools	5
REAA Yukon-Koyukuk	4
Greater Sitka Borough Schools	3
Kenai Peninsula Borough Schools	3
Private Schools	3
Nenana City Schools	2
REAA Lower Kuskokwim	2
REAA Delta/Greeley Schools	2
REAA Aleutian Chain	2
REAA Alaska Gateway Schools	2

The following school districts each employed one of the students included in this study:

Borough and City School Districts

Bristol Bay Borough Schools

Craig City Schools

Haines Borough Schools

King Cove City Schools

Kodiak Island Borough Schools

St. Mary's Public Schools

Yakutat City Schools

Regional Education Attendance Area (REAA)

Bering Straits Schools

Lower Yukon Schools

Southwest Regional Schools

Iditarod Area Schools

Upper Railbelt Schools

Chatham Schools

BIA Unalakleet

BIA Chevak

In summary, student teachers included in this study are or have been employed in 16 of Alaska's 31 Borough and City School Districts. Twelve of the 21 Regional Education Attendance Areas (REAA) have employed or currently employ teachers who student taught at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Borough and City School Districts have employed 150 former student teachers, while 26 have been employed by REAAs. Fourteen former student teachers were employed by branches of the University of Alaska or in private schools.

Not Employed as Full-time Teachers:

Eighty-two of the student teachers in this study report that they have not accepted teaching positions. Twenty-six of these individuals, however, have served as substitute teachers after leaving the University. The occupations reported by students not in the teaching profession range from accountant to university graduate student. Table C shows a partial list of occupations (those reported by two or more persons) and the number of individuals so employed. Other occupations reported include draftsman, musician, television advertising, part-time tutor, and fund raiser.

Table C

Non-teaching Occupations Reported by Students

Occupation	No. of Students
Full-time homemaker	20
Construction trades	5
Secretary	5
Sales representative	4
University graduate student	4
Accountant	3
Own business	3
Biologist	3
City employee	3
Law officer	2
Real estate	2

Many of the individuals in non-teaching careers have not actively sought teaching positions, either because of circumstances (such as availability of pipeline employment) or personal choice (such as raising a family). At some future date these individuals may be employed as teachers.

Eight of the individuals not teaching live outside of Alaska. The remaining 74 individuals not teaching reside in Alaska. Eighteen of the 208

individuals who are teaching or have accepted teaching positions live outside of Alaska. Therefore, of 345 former student teachers, at least 264 are residents of Alaska.

Summary:

Three hundred forty-five students did their student teaching at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, during a twelve-semester span (spring 1972 through fall 1977). Two hundred eight (60%) of these students accepted full-time teaching positions after student teaching. Eighty-two (24%) had not entered the teaching ranks as of the fall of 1978. No information is available about 55 (16%) of the former student teachers. At least 264 (77%) of the former students have taken up residence in Alaska after student teaching. In the previous study, three patterns of previous education were identified: students who completed all of their course work at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; students who transferred to the University as undergraduates; and students who entered teacher education at the University after completing degrees at other colleges and universities. Table D shows the number of students in each of the three categories and the number teaching, not teaching, and unknown.

Table D

Summary of 3 Categories of Students--
Teaching, Not Teaching, and Unknown

	Completed all course work at the U. of Ak.	Undergraduate Transfers	Post-Bachelor	Total
Teaching	62 (62%)	107 (61%)	39 (56%)	208
Not Teaching	25 (25%)	35 (20%)	22 (31%)	82
Unknown	13 (13%)	33 (19%)	9 (13%)	55
Totals	100 (100%)	175 (100%)	70 (100%)	345

Sixty-two percent of the students who completed all of their course work at the University of Alaska accepted teaching positions, and 61 percent of the undergraduate transfer students also have entered the teaching profession. Thirty-nine (56%) of the post-bachelor students have accepted teaching positions.

Conclusion:

Wilson in a study of teacher education graduates stated, "It was found that 424 people became qualified to teach through their work at the University of Alaska from 1930 through 1964." Wilson received 262 responses to a mailed questionnaire. He found that 133 individuals were presently (in 1967) in education.[1]

It seems very likely that the 424 qualified teachers prepared in 34 years will be equalled in a decade or less. The number of former students who enter the teaching profession has also increased in recent years. For each student teacher who has accepted a teaching position in a rural school district six have been employed by city and borough districts. Because the number of teaching opportunities in Alaska is increasing it is anticipated that student enrollment in teacher education will grow.

University of Alaska student teachers do indeed enter the teaching profession. Almost one third of the individuals in this study teach or have taught in the Fairbanks area. Approximately 77 percent of the student teachers have established residence in Alaska after their University course work was completed.

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[1] Wilson, Serve Jon, "Follow-up Study of the 1930-1964 Teacher Education Graduates of the University of Alaska," Research in Education Study, University of Alaska, February 1967, p. 4.